The Town of Herndon has joined Fairfax County's program to recover and recycle glass. Glass is no longer included as part of the town's single stream recycling process. Glass should not be placed in your curbside pick-up recycling containers.



Herndon and Fairfax County have established a glass only recycling drop off container, which is located at the entrance to the Herndon Public Works Shops at 1479 Sterling Road. Residents are encouraged to bring their glass to the town's "Purple Dumpster" drop off container, reuse glass containers or if not possible, glass should be placed in the trash for disposal. This glass only recycling program will reduce the amount of broken glass that contaminates other recyclable materials in the single stream recycling sorting process, making those materials unrecoverable. Residents who bring their glass recyclables to the town's purple container can be sure their glass will be recycled responsibly. All colors of emptied glass bottles and jars are acceptable materials for glass drop-off. Food residue from jars should be rinsed out before placing glass in the bins. Items that are not accepted include food, plastic bags, lamps or light bulbs, ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, windows, and glass sheets.

Fairfax County has worked with local jurisdictions, to include the Town of Herndon, to establish the "Purple Can Club" to collect and reuse glass taken out of the single stream recycling program. Beginning in January 2020, a new glass recycling partnership was established to improve glass recycling for Fairfax County and Herndon. Working with North America's largest glass recycler, Strategic Materials, glass from the town's purple container will be processed at one of their recycling facilities. The glass will be sold to manufacturers of a wide range of glass products, including bottle manufacturing plants in Danville and Toano, Virginia. This will result in a high percentage of glass that can be reused. Please utilize Herndon's Purple Dumpster to recycle your glass bottles and jars. This will support the town's sustainability goals and reduce landfill waste, reduce energy, and reduce greenhouse gases.

"One ton of carbon dioxide is reduced for every six tons of recycled container glass used in the manufacturing process," according to the Glass Packaging Institute.

For more information about Fairfax County's purple container program please visit: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/glass.